

DUNCAN HUNTER
520 DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA
COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY
CHAIRMAN
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
MILITARY PROCUREMENT
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
MILITARY READINESS



U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0552

2205 RANDOLPH BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0552
1202 225-6672
FAX: (202) 225-0235
306 SOUTH PIERCE STREET
EL CAJON, CA 92020
(619) 579-3001
1101 AIRPORT ROAD, SUITE G
IMPERIAL, CA 92251
(760) 362-6428

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 11, 1998

CONTACT: Maureen Cragin
Ryan Vaart
(202) 225-2539

**STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE DUNCAN HUNTER,
CHAIRMAN, PROCUREMENT SUBCOMMITTEE AT THE
JOINT MILITARY PROCUREMENT AND RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON
CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION — INFORMATION ASSURANCE**

I would like to emphasize to those in the audience that today's hearing is not just something we're doing to fill our time as we wait for the other body to pass its Defense Authorization Bill in order to begin conference deliberations. I think this point is driven home by Secretary Hamre's statement, in which he declares:

"Mr. Chairmen, you render a great service to America by providing a hearing to focus national attention on issues related to information assurance and critical infrastructure protection which directly affect the security of the nation and the quality of life of every American. This hearing will provide information that will raise public awareness and highlight the current and potential challenges in protecting our information and our critical infrastructures."

We have already heard from Dr. Hamre in closed session regarding the some of the recent painful lessons learned and relearned by the Defense Department—and indeed by the rest of the Federal government—from exercise-driven and from real-world "cyber attacks" of unclassified military computer networks. Though the general perception of the American public is that an "electronic Pearl Harbor" cannot happen, we must not wait for that eventuality to react to the threats that could cause it. I believe it was former Deputy Defense Secretary and Central Intelligence Director, John Deutsch, who said that the electron is the "ultimate precision-guided munition." Unfortunately, as Dr. Hunker notes in his statement, it can be fired by one person anywhere in the world with a computer, a modem, and a telephone line!

We, as National Security Committee members, obviously need and want to focus on DOD information assurance and the compelling need to protect the DOD information infrastructure. Nonetheless, we must realize at the same time that as DOD increases its reliance on commercial-off-the-shelf products and the connections of its information networks to public networks, the problems associated with information assurance and maintenance of critical information infrastructures become magnified.

Consequently, I, too, am pleased we are having this hearing. It fills a void that must not be overlooked as we wrestle with other personnel, readiness, and modernization problems of the Department. I only wish that our late colleague, Sonny Bono, were here to participate, since this was a subject that he was keenly interested in championing. We will miss the wisdom of his counsel.

I want to welcome you, Dr. Hunker, and I look forward to your testimony. You have been given an enormous task to accomplish, and we all want to know how we can help. Mr. Wells and General Campbell, we appreciate your remaining here for our open session and look forward to your testimony as well.